

Message Text

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ACTION IO-11

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 OIC-02 USPS-01 EB-07 L-03 USIE-00

PRS-01 PA-01 IOE-00 EUR-12 SSO-00 /045 W

----- 113814

O P 121730Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY LIMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9291

INFO AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BOGOTA PRIORITY

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STATE FOR IO/TRC FROM HEAD OF U.S. DELEGATION

EO 11652: NA

TAGS: PUAS, PFOR, PORG, ETEL, CU, ES, UY, US

SUBJ: HOST TO 1981 POSTAL CONGRESS - CUBA OR U.S.?

REF: TELCON WEBB TO WALKER MARCH 10, TELCON WEBB TO HOYT
MARCH 4, STATE 59681

1. SUMMARY: CHANCES THAT THE UNITED STATES WILL HAVE TO
HOST THE 1981 CONGRESS OF THE POSTAL UNION OF THE AMERICAS
AND SPAIN (PUAS) OR SEE CUBA WIN BY DEFAULT SEEM TO HAVE
LESSENED SOMEWHAT IN THE LAST 24 HOURS. U.S. DEL INTENDS
NOT TO CONVEY FOR THE MOMENT THE CONTENTS OF STATE 59681
WHICH SAYS THAT WE ARE AUTHORIZED TO OFFER TO HOST
CONGRESS IN THE EVENT NO OTHER COUNTRY BUT CUBA COMES FORWARD.
IN ANY CASE, USDEL INTENDS TO WAIT A DAY OR TWO IN ORDER TO
SEE WHETHER URUGUAY, EL SALVADOR OR SOME UNEXPECTED COUNTRY
WILL OFFER TO HOST. A FORMAL CONGRESS DECISION IS NO LONGER
EXPECTED BEFORE SUNDAY, MARCH 14 OR EVEN WEDNESDAY, MARCH 18.
END SUMMARY

2. CONTRARY TO PREVIOUS PUAS CONGRESS PRACTICES, THE
PRESENT XI CONGRESS HAS BEEN VERY SLOW IN FINDING A
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CONSENSUS CHOICE FOR THE NEXT CONGRESS SITE. PRE-

CONGRESS EFFORTS TO SMOKE OUT POTENTIAL HOSTS WERE USUALLY MET WITH AN ENIGMATIC, "DON'T WORRY* NO ONE REALLY WANTS IT BUT SOMEONE ALWAYS COMES FORWARD IN TIME WHEN THEY BECOME CONVINCED THAT NO ONE ELSE WILL DO IT."

3. THE USDEL, FOLLOWING ITS ORIGINAL INSTRUCTION, URGED SUCH DELEGATIONS AS URUGUAY, CHILE, MEXICO, VENEZUELA AND COLOMBIA TO PUSH FOR A CONSENSUS ON AN AVAILABLE HOST COUNTRY AND INDICATE THAT CUBA WOULD BE THE ONLY HOST THAT WOULD CAUSE US PROBLEMS. WE COULD NOT GUARANTEE OUR ATTENDANCE IN HAVANA IN 1981. WE SAID THAT WE HAD NO AUTHORITY TO OFFER TO HOST THE CONGRESS OURSELVES.

4. EARLY ON MARCH 10, SEVERAL OF THE ABOVE DELEGATIONS INDICATED TO US THAT CUBA WAS KNOWN TO BE ACTIVELY SOLICITING SUPPORT FOR 1981, THAT NO OTHER LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRY WAS APPARENTLY COMING FORWARD AND THAT CUBA COULD ONLY BE HEADED OFF BY A U.S. OFFER. WE WERE ASSURED THAT A U.S. OFFER WOULD BE THE PREFERRED SOLUTION FOR ALMOST ALL DELEGATIONS AND WOULD MEAN THAT THE CUBAN OFFER WOULD PROBABLY NEVER SEE THE LIGHT OF DAY. WE REPEATED OUR UNWILLINGNESS TO HOST. THE PUAS DIRECTOR GENERAL ALSO PASSED US A SIMILAR EVALUATION, URGING US TO ACT NOW. THE DEAN OF THE CONGRESS (CANADA) ALSO INDICATED THAT CUBA WAS SERIOUS AND THAT NO ONE ELSE WAS PREPARED TO OFFER TO HOST.

5. UPON THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE MOST EXPERIENCED COLOMBIAN DELEGATE, WE INFORMED URUGUAY OF THE FULL IMPLICATIONS OF THIS SITUATION. WE WERE GIVEN TO UNDERSTAND THAT URUGUAY WOULD VERY RELUCTANTLY OFFER TO HOST IF THAT WAS NECESSARY TO STOP CUBA BUT THAT URUGUAY MUCH PREFERRED TO GO TO THE U.S. IN 1981. THIS MORE OPTIMISTIC APPRAISAL WAS COMMUNICATED TO THE DEPARTMENT (TELCON MARCH 10) AND LED TO THE CABLE WHICH WE HAVE NOW RECEIVED (STATE 59681). WE ARE SEEKING ADDITIONAL CLARIFICATIONS OF THE SITUATION.

6. LATE MARCH 10 AND EARLY MARCH 11, MEMBERS OF THE URUGUAYAN DELEGATION BEGAN TO BACK PEDAL, SAYING THAT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THEY HAD NO AUTHORIZATION FROM THEIR GOVERNMENT TO HOST THE XII CONGRESS AND THAT THEY COULD NOT UNDERTAKE AN OPEN CONTEST WITH CUBA WITHOUT OTHER DELEGATIONS PUBLICLY CALLING FOR ADDITIONAL OFFERS DESIGNED TO GIVE THE CONGRESS A CHOICE. THESE DARKER PROSPECTS WERE COMMUNICATED TO THE DEPARTMENT (TELCON MARCH 11) BUT BASED UPON INFORMATION IN THIS TELCON, WE DECIDED TO INFORM URUGUAY THAT WE HAD GIVEN WASHINGTON A FULL ACCOUNT

OF THE PRESENT SITUATION AND WOULD TAKE NO FURTHER ACTION WITHOUT NEW INSTRUCTIONS. URUGUAY ACCEPTED THIS NEWS IN GOOD SPIRITS. THIS TOOK PLACE BEFORE STATE 59681 WAS RECEIVED, ALTHOUGH THE GENERAL CONTENTS WERE BY THEN KNOWN.

7. A TOTALLY UNEXPECTED DEVELOPMENT THEN AROSE WHEN THE COLOMBIAN DELEGATE INFORMED US THAT THE DIRECTOR GENERAL, RENA DOCAMPO, APPARENTLY CONVINCED THAT THE U.S. WOULD NOT OFFER TO HOST, HAD PERSUADED EL SALVADOR TO REQUEST AUTHORITY TO MAKE ITS OWN OFFER. (NO CENTRAL AMERICAN COUNTRY BUT PANAMA HAS EVER HOSTED THE PUAS CONGRESS.) DOCAMPO ALSO INDICATED THAT A FORMAL DECISION ON THE 1981 HOST COUNTRY WOULD BE MADE WEDNESDAY, MARCH 17, GIVING US ADDITIONAL TIME.

8. RATHER THAN COMMUNICATE IMMEDIATELY ANY AUTHORIZATION TO OFFER TO HOST TO OTHER DELEGATES, WE INTEND TO WAIT UNTIL KEXDAY#IN ORDER TO GIVE OTHER DELEGATES A CHANCE TO COME FORWARD. WHAT HAS COMPLICATED DECISION OVER NEXT HOST IS CONVICTION BY MEXICO, VENEZUELA AND OTHERS THAT THE U.S. COULD NEVER ALLOW CUBA TO WIN THE XII CONGRESS WITHOUT U.S. COMPETITION, THEREFORE, THERE WAS NO NEED IN THEIR EYES TO PRESS FOR AN ALTERNATIVE LATIN AMERICAN SOLUTION. ONLY THE U.S. DEL'S SUCCESS IN RAISING DOUBTS AS TO THE POSSIBILITY OF U.S. OFFERING TO HOST HAS LED OTHERS TO CONSIDER HOSTING NEXT CONGRESS THEMSELVES.
DEAN

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